
Bethesda Church Profile

Senior Pastor Information Packet



BETHESDA SEARCH COMMITTEE

2019

*Jason Christenson Al Larson Bruce Anderson Rebecca Christenson Julie Francis
Brittany Christenson Ellen Simonsen John Francis*



BETHESDA CHURCH

SENIOR PASTOR INFORMATION PACKET

www.BethesdaChurchMN.com

Prior Lake, Minnesota

15033 Hwy 13 S, Prior Lake, MN 55372

Sunday School 9:30 AM

Sunday Service 10:45 AM

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:00AM - 4:30PM

Office Phone (952) 226-6651

Office Email bethesda@bethesdachurch.com

****NOTE:** *In the interest of application confidentiality, please do not use this contact information regarding your application to Bethesda Church. Applicants may use this email address: search@bethesdachurch.com.*

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Introductory Letter

Search Committee

Bethesda Church

15033 Hwy 13 S, Prior Lake, MN 55372

Greetings Prospective Candidates and Friends:

Thank you for your interest in Bethesda Church! This Church Profile was created to provide an overview of our church, beliefs, community, and position. It was designed to give prospective applicants and their families a snapshot of relevant information on our church and the community and people it serves. We hope it will help to familiarize you with our church, culture, and beliefs.

Bethesda Church of Prior Lake is at a moment of exciting transition! After six years of faithful ministry at Bethesda, serving three years as our Senior Pastor, Pastor Brent Befus is moving on to seek God's will in other capacities. As a congregation led church, the Elders reviewed and updated Bethesda's mission statement approximately a year ago:

**"Our mission is to live, teach, and share the Gospel of the grace of God
in the spheres of influence God has given us."**

Since Bethesda's inception in 1924, the Lord has used Bethesda Church to serve His purpose in many ways. As a Bible-based church, we place a high value on God's Word and challenge each other to live that out where we work, play, and live. Located in the suburbs of the Twin Cities, Bethesda Church is uniquely positioned to minister to the 16th largest metropolitan area in the USA.

If you would like to pursue this call by applying, or refer an applicant, please visit our website www.bethesdachurchmn.com/Search. To request additional information or additional clarification about this pastoral search, please email the Search Committee at search@bethesdachurch.com.

We are grateful for your interest in our church and your prayerful consideration should the Lord call you to our fellowship.

In His Name,

The Bethesda Search Committee

Jason Christenson, *Search Committee Chair*
Al Larson, *Worship Leader*
Bruce Anderson, *Elder, Church Treasurer*
Rebecca Christenson

Julie Francis, *Deaconess Chair*
Brittany Christenson
Ellen Simonsen
John Francis, *Elder*

Our Mission

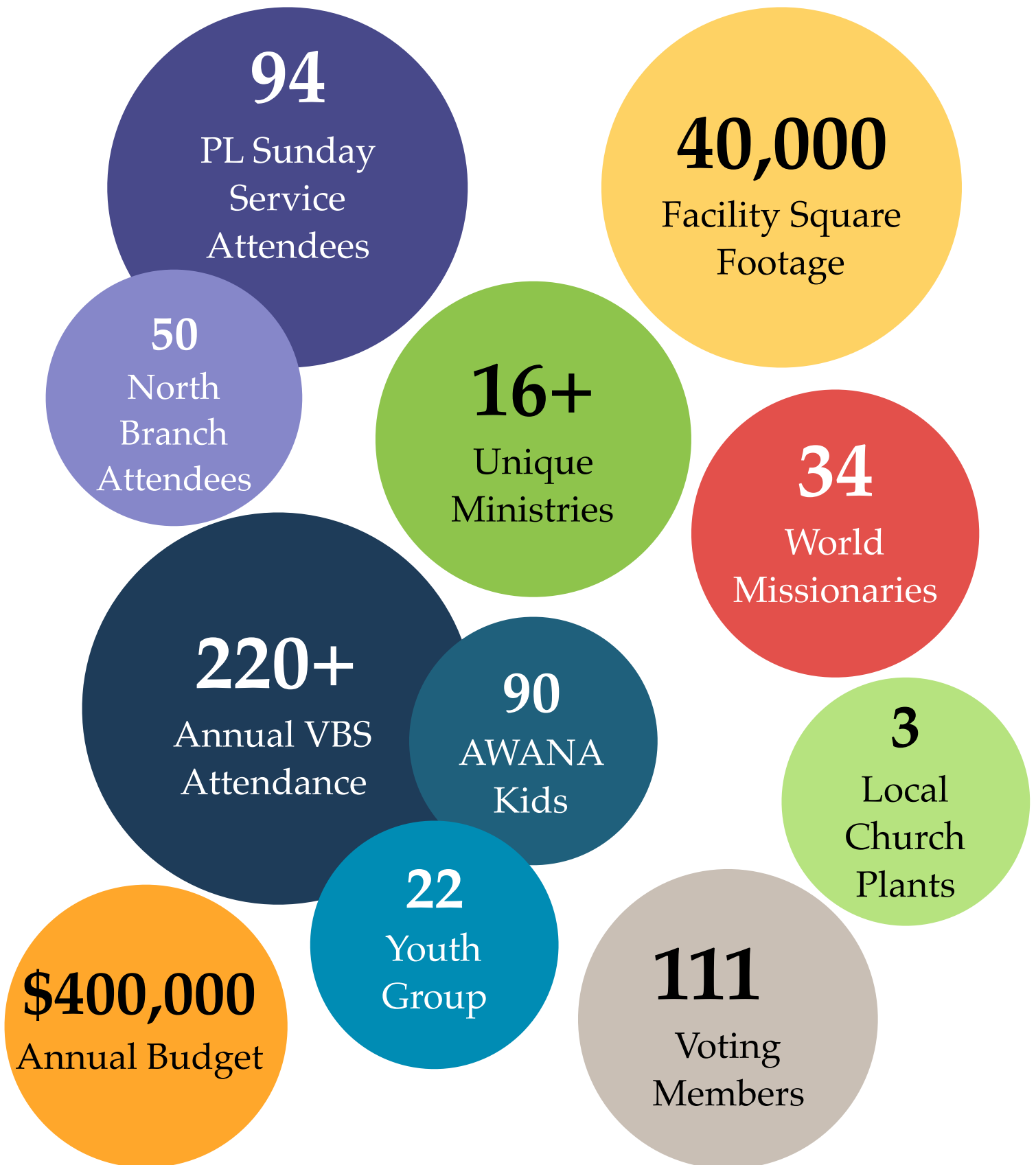
Bethesda Church's mission is to

live, teach, and share

the Gospel of the grace of God in the spheres of influence God
has given us.



Church Overview in Numbers



A BRIEF HISTORY OF BETHESDA CHURCH

Bethesda church has a long history serving the Twin Cities community. Here are the major events & people:

INCEPTION

Two tents are erected in rural Minneapolis area for a children's Sunday School

1914

Construction completed on the church's first building: a **Chapel**

1918

Rev. Alvin Carlson steps up to lead the Church

1922

Rev. C. E. Cedar is installed as Senior Pastor

1926

The chapel is **razed & rebuilt**

1935

Pastor Henry Prince is installed as **Senior Pastor** on his condition that 50% of offerings go toward missions

1941

BEFC's FM Radio broadcast "**The Morning Bible Hour**" becomes most popular religious show in the Twin Cities

1951

Bethesda Mission was established as an independent missionary sending agency

1969

Pastor Roger Anderson was installed as BEFC's Senior Pastor

1987

The church separates from Evangelical Free Church as an independent non-denominational congregation & **changes its name to Bethesda Church**

2000

Pastor Mark Matychuk is installed as Bethesda's Senior Pastor

2007

A large **classroom expansion** is built on the church to rent to a school

2015

Pastor Brent Befus is appointed Interim Pastor, then as Senior Pastor a year later

TODAY

Prayerfully seeking our new Senior Pastor to lead Bethesda Church for His glory!

1910
The **Rev. Oscar Walstad** starts preaching Sunday mornings

1916
The church grows & completes an **addition to the Chapel**

1920
The **Rev. Paul Seashore** becomes Senior Pastor

1924
The church is formally organized & incorporated as **Bethesda Evangelical Free Church**

1930
Pastor Henry Prince steps up to become BEFC's **Interim Pastor**

1940
The church completes construction on a **New Sanctuary**

1945
BEFC plants a church to serve Bloomington, MN: **Oxboro Evangelical Free Church**

1968
BEFC plants a second church & installs **Pastor Arthur Matychuk** to lead it: **Highland Bible Church**

1986
Pastor "Frosty" Hansen is appointed Interim Pastor, then as Senior Pastor a year later

1992
Pastor Arthur Matychuk is called to serve as Bethesda's Senior Pastor

2005
Bethesda moves to the Minneapolis suburbs of **Prior Lake**

2015
Bethesda purchases property & plants a church in **North Branch**



Our Beliefs

We at Bethesda believe that there is no substitute for a right relationship with God our Creator. This peace with our Maker is only possible through His Son Jesus Christ. The Bible, God's Word to mankind, informs us how to receive Jesus Christ and have a meaningful life in this world. Therefore, we endeavor to share our understanding of God, Jesus Christ and the Bible in practical ways that make sense, and which will enrich all who attend our Services.

The Bible

We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired of God (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21), and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life (Hebrews 4:12).

The Godhead

We believe in one God (Deuteronomy 6:4; John 10:30), eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit (I Timothy 2:5; II Corinthians 13:14).

Person of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35), and born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true man (Philippians 2:6-9; John 1:1-2, 14; Romans 1:3-4).

Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is a person, who convicts the world of sin (John 16:8), and who regenerates, baptizes, indwells, enlightens, and empowers (Titus 3:5; I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:13, 17, 18; 3:16).

Man's Condition

We believe that man was created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27), but that in Adam's sin the race fell (Romans 3:23; 5:12), inherited a sinful nature, became alienated from God (Ephesians 2:1-3, 12), and is totally unable to please God in this lost condition (Romans 3:9-12; 8:7-8).

Redemption

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sin according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice (II Corinthians 5:21), and that all who believe in His finished work are justified by His shed blood (Romans 3:23-26; Ephesians 1:7). This complete salvation is bestowed as the free gift of God (Ephesians 2:8-9). All those who are thus saved are eternally secure in Christ (Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:1, 38-39; Ephesians 4:30).

Salvation

We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit (Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23, Ephesians 1:13), and thereby become children of God (Romans 8:15-17), and members of the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:13).

Resurrection

We believe in the bodily resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 15:12-20), in His ascension into heaven, and in His present life there for us as High Priest and Advocate (I John 2:1). Likewise, we believe that all men will be raised, the just to everlasting glory (I Corinthians 15:21-22), and the unjust to everlasting conscious suffering (John 5:28-29; Revelation 20:11-15).

Return of Christ

We believe the rapture of the Church and the second coming of Christ will be pre-millennial. He will come first to receive the Church unto Himself (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Philippians 3:20, 21), and then come to establish His Millennial Kingdom, over which He will reign (Zechariah 14:4, 9; Acts 1:10,11; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-4). Because of the nature of the Body of Christ, the resurrection and rapture of the Church, which is His Body, will take place before the Great Tribulation (Jeremiah 30:7; Matthew 24:15-31; I Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9) at His appearing in the air (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Philippians 3:20, 21; Titus 2:13, 14; I Corinthians 15:51-53), the resurrection of the Old Testament and Tribulation saints will occur after the Tribulation and they will reign with Christ for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4-6).



Our Core Values

We see our church not simply as a house of worship with walls, a roof and open doors. Rather, we believe that the church is actually the members and believers that come together to practice God's word, celebrate His love and extend His gifts. Our Core Values demonstrate what is most important and what we must live if we are to remain "Bethesda Church." These Core Values guide our ministries, programs, and the life of our church. As a result, we will evaluate all of what we do with these five Core Values in mind. These include:

Bible Centered

We approach the Bible as of first importance. What we do, what we believe, and what we teach comes from the authority of God's Word. The Bible is central in all we do, taking precedence over church tradition, a shifting culture and especially, our own opinion (2 Tim. 3:16).



Grace Theology

We approach church life and programs through a Dispensational perspective. At the heart of our theological position is the message Christ committed to the Apostle Paul regarding the outpouring of God's grace in forming the Church, which is comprised of all people without distinction who come to Christ through faith (Eph. 3:1-6). We teach and edify believers in the importance of handling God's Word correctly (2 Tim. 2:15).

Grace Living

We put our theology into action by the way we live our lives. We desire that, through loving, authentic relationships, we can confront what does not belong, encourage, and bear each other's burdens so that we address the various struggles in our lives. We desire to avoid the bonds of legalism by demonstrating love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, against which there is no law (Gal. 5:22, 23).



Multigenerational

We love a multigenerational approach to life and ministry more than we love our own particular preferences. This means we want to approach ministry, programs, and functions with all the different generations in mind and focus. This means our church life will be tailored to all ages to include the youngest to the oldest.

This also means we want our church leadership to reflect the different generations. To achieve this, we commit to pursue training, mentoring, and discipling the next generation so they can take the place of our current leadership (2 Tim. 2:2). We will develop interns and provide genuine opportunities for the next generation to practice their gifts.

Missional

We have a heart for the lost both in our neighborhood and abroad. The Apostle Paul's heart was to see those who do not know Christ to be transformed and he wanted believers to do everything they could in their speech and conduct to promote Christ as well. We have a desire for our community to know Christ and be transformed by Him (1 Cor. 9:22-23).

We also value foreign missions and thank God for the various spheres of influence he has given us around the world. We will continue to support and encourage missionaries to promote the Gospel of the Grace of God while we do our part where we work, play, and live.



Worship & Music

Philosophy

Over the past three years, the Bethesda Church Worship Team has committed to a more traditional presentation of music in the Sunday service. Hymns comprise the majority of music for worship while still including a tasteful blend of contemporary worship music both vocally and instrumentally. Two or three worship leaders lead the congregation in worship each Sunday. The worship leaders are supported by a band including piano, guitar, clarinet, bassoon, violin, trombone, and drums. Both the band and the worship leaders endeavored to bring a spirit of praise and worship directed to God, our Creator.

Bethesda Church also presents a choir once or twice a month to enhance the worship experience. The choir presentations emphasize meaningful selections from many of the great hymn writers of times past. The choir is small but effective with great leadership.

Music is a catalyst to confirm the truths of the Word of God and enrich the experience of corporate gatherings while proclaiming the greatness of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.



Ministry Highlights

To achieve our mission of living, teaching, and sharing the Gospel of the Grace of God, Bethesda provides a range of ministries including Bible studies, teaching, fellowship, and service. While all ministries at Bethesda have attributes that can be described with all three elements of Bethesda's mission, our ministries are each intended to serve primarily in one of these missional elements and are categorized as such. The lists below highlight some of these ministries Bethesda Church offers.

LIVE

- **Annual Women's Retreat**
- **Life Groups & Small Group Bible Studies**
- **Worship Nights**
- **Monthly Prayer Breakfasts**
- **Shepherding Ministry**
- **Pacesetters** - Adult Fellowship Ministry (10th year)
- **Weekly Dinner & Fellowship** - Serves ~80 people
- **Fall Ball & Spring Soirée** - Swing dance with live band for ~120 attendees

SHARE

- **Bethesda Choir** - 13 members
- **Bethesda Worship Band** - 8-10 regular members
- **Annual Missions Conference**
- **Family Camp** over Labor Day Weekend
- **National Day of Prayer**
- **Community Outreach & Prison Ministry**
- **Helping Hands & Hearts** - Provides meals, notes, and special projects to needy families
- Hosts community groups, events, & outside independent ministries, including:
 - ❖ **River South Bible Church** - Meets on Sunday nights & coordinates with Bethesda for events
 - ❖ **Alpha Women's Center/ICU Mobile** - Has dedicated office space & parking within Bethesda
 - ❖ **Boy Scouts of America Troop 333**
 - ❖ **Homeschool groups & classes**
 - ❖ **Red Cross Blood Drives**
 - ❖ **Community Civic Voting Center**
 - ❖ **Provides volunteers for local city & county community events & festivals**
 - ❖ **Operation Christmas Child** regional collection center
 - ❖ **Voice of the Martyrs**

TEACH

- **Sunday School Classes & Children's Church**
- **AWANA** (3yrs - 6th grade) - Attendance ~90 students
- **Youth Group** - Attendance 20-25 students weekly
- **Adult Classes & Prayer Group**
- **Vacation Bible School** - Growing, attendance 220+
- **Grace Christian University Extension Classes**



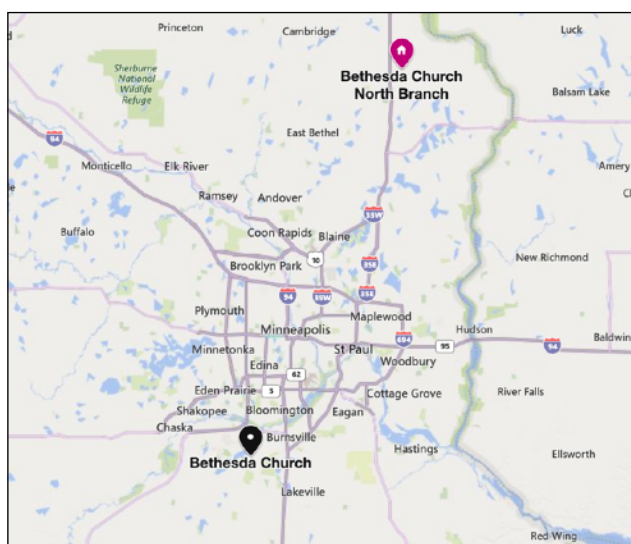
Location, Demographics, & Facilities

Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

Bethesda Church is located on the border of Prior Lake and Savage, situated about 25 miles south of Minneapolis and 28 miles southwest of St. Paul, the capital of Minnesota.

Bethesda Church also has a sister church to serve the northeastern community of the Twin Cities in North Branch. It is situated 45 miles north of Minneapolis and 43 miles north of St Paul.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area is a thriving community of nearly 3 million people, in 7 counties and 182 communities, encompassing nearly 3,000 square miles. Our region is home to 19 "Fortune 500" corporations and boasts a highly educated workforce. Our average household income is among the highest in the nation, and our unemployment rate is among the lowest. Thriving arts, music and theatre communities, and professional sports teams help make our region a magnet for creative, young professionals. Our renowned park system includes 52 state parks and 340 miles of interconnected trails!



Scott County Statistics

Population:	139,490
Median Age:	35.7
Median Household Income:	\$90,198
Median Property Value:	\$258,000
Demographics:	83% White, 6% Asian, 5% Hispanic
Other:	Minnesota Vikings Fans: 99%
	Indianapolis Colts Fans: 1%
	Green Bay Packer Fans: 0%

Prior Lake Facilities

Bethesda Church's beautiful facilities are extensive and offer plenty of growth opportunities. Boasting over 40,000 square feet, the church offers a full size gymnasium, a dedicated oversize youth room, 10+ classrooms, a board room, a commercial grade kitchen, an extensive fellowship hall for hosting formal and informal events, and a smaller chapel for more intimate events. There are 7 spacious church offices and a reception area for full and part-time church staff in a dedicated space within the church. The main sanctuary comfortably seats 250+ people. The parking lot is large and has approximately 200 spaces. The church sits on 7.5 acres of land, some of which is wooded, and has great visibility to a high-traffic county highway (13), but the entrance is on a much quieter, safer frontage road.

The church hosts a number of organizations who use the building extensively throughout the week and year. In 2006, Bethesda built a series of classrooms to rent to an area charter school, which supplemented the mortgage. Currently, this space is rented to El Bosque Encantado, a Spanish immersion preschool. The church is also used by organizations, like the Boy Scouts of America Troop 333, area homeschool groups, Alpha Women's Center, River South Bible Church, & a community voting center, among others.



Church Budget at a Glance (2018)

Income	
Contributions	\$330,107
Rental	\$79,500
Total	409,607

Infrastructure			
Mortgage	\$52,297		
Utilities	\$24,900		
Capital Expense	\$12,000		
	Roof Sinking fund		
	Parking Lot Sinking Fund		
	HVAC Systems Sinking Fund		
Supplies	\$3,800		
Maintenance	\$12,900		
Insurance	\$13,000		
Office Expense	\$5,210		
Deaconess Expense	\$1,300		
North Branch Expenses	\$16,600		
Vehicle	\$1,700		
Part Time Support	\$52,500	Percentage of Total Budget	
Total	\$196,207		48%

Fixed Ministry			
Support Staff			
Music			
Church Service		Percentage of Total Budget	
Total	\$112,850		28%

Flexible Ministry			Percentage of Total Budget	Percentage of Flexible Ministry
Live				
	Small Groups			
	Men's Prayer Breakfast			
	Women's Retreat			
	Women's Tea			
	Family Camp			
	Church Picnic & Events			
	Support Staff			
	Total	\$7,700	2%	8%
Teach				
	Sunday School Adults			
	Sunday School Kids			
	AWANA			
	Youth Group			
	Christian Ed. Misc.			
	Library			
	Development of Lay Staff			
	Teacher Appreciation			
	North Branch Christian Ed.			
	Support Staff			
	Total	\$22,250	5%	22%
Share				
	VBS			
	Lakefront Days			
	Blood Drive			
	Financial Peace University			
	Support Staff			
	Missionary Giving			
	Total	\$70,600	17%	70%
Total Flexible		\$100,550	25%	100%

Governance & Staff

Board of Elders

With respect to ecclesiology, we are a congregational church. As such we believe that Christ has vested the authority of His Church not in a hierarchy of professionals, but in the members of the local congregation itself, especially as they are represented in a local body of Elders whom we elect.

The congregation of Bethesda governs through an elected committee structure led by a Board of Elders that is responsible for the overall spiritual welfare and management of the church in accordance with the Bylaws. Members of the Elder Board are elected during the Annual Business Meeting for 3 year terms.

There are two major committees that report to the Elders, the Trustees which oversees the business side of the church, its facilities, and stewardship, and the Deaconess Board. Another important committee is the Nominating Committee for recommending members to elected positions within Bethesda Church.

Staff

The Senior Pastor manages a team of pastors, directors and administrative staff that are responsible for carrying out the direction set by the various committees of Bethesda church.



Director of Evangelism & Outreach

*Pastor Dwight
Anderson*



Director of Children's Ministries

Leah Hollenbeck



Secretary

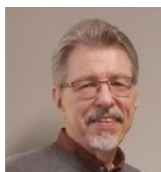
Beth Osterlund



Bookkeeper,

Rhonda Brandt

Other Staff Positions



North Branch Pastor

Pastor Mark Huber



Director of Children's Ministries (NB)

Aimee Johnson



Secretary (NB)

Terry Reyer

The Board of Elders

Andrew Hollenbeck, *Chairman*

Bruce Anderson

Jim Knoll Riley Dvorak

JT Maddox John Francis

The Board of Elders (North Branch)

Michael Bauer John Johnson

Louis Radich Jeff Barnes

The Board of Trustees

Paul Brandt, *Chairman*

Paul Ebert John Simonsen

John Toeller Don Koukal

Mike Von Arx

The Board of Trustees (North Branch)

Terry Cave, *Chairman*

George Schoeberl

The Board of Deaconesses

Julie Francis, *Chairwomen*

Mary Cleveland Cati Wirtz

Mary Dybevik Phyllis Engvall

Mary Nelson

The Board of Deaconesses

(North Branch)

Terry Reyer Miriam Newby

Joyce Cave Ruth Bauer

Candidate Profile

Bethesda is actively seeking a full-time Senior Pastor.
Below is a brief description of the position and desired qualifications.

Description

The Senior Pastor responsibilities include:

- Performing Scriptural and necessary duties of his office.
 - Preaching the Word.
 - Overseeing the membership and spiritual interest of the church.
 - Assisting in organizing and developing the church's membership for the best possible service.
- Providing guidance to all employees, officers, and boards as an ex-officio member of all Boards and Committees.
- Delegating supervisory responsibilities to other staff and key leadership teams to implement in their field or service.
- Presenting the annual ministry plan to the Board of Elders for agreement.
- Establishing and implementing the church's vision.
- Offering pastoral shepherding and leadership to the congregation.
- Providing counseling to couples, families, and individuals.

Qualifications

Education

- Minimum, Pastoral Studies Degree from Bible College

Doctrine

- Agree with the Bethesda Confession of Faith
- Adhere to mid-Acts dispensational theology

Experience

- Minimum of 3-5 years of experience as an Associate or Senior Pastor

Application Process

Confidentiality

Bethesda Church is looking for a Senior Pastor to lead the church into the future. The Bethesda Search Committee fully respects the candidate's need for complete confidentiality in the application process. Be assured that all details, including interest expressed in applying, will not be discussed with anyone beyond the Search Committee without the candidate's prior consent.

How To Apply

PREPARE THE FOLLOWING:

- Resume
- Personal Statement of Faith
- Personal Testimony
- Please Answer: What attracts you to the position of Senior Pastor at Bethesda Church?
- Link(s) to past sermons, if available

SUBMIT ONLINE APPLICATION:

- Visit: bethesdachurchmn.com/apply
- Fill out all required fields in the form on the page
- Upload supporting PDF or MS Word file(s)
- Click "submit"
- Once submitted you will receive a confirmation email

Additional Information

If you have questions, you may email the search committee via our private email address: search@bethesdachurch.com. While the committee will work diligently to process the applications and questions, it may take several weeks for us to make a first-round decision. Your patience is greatly appreciated! Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

